

To the Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Committee,

Firstly, I believe that child support needs to reflect the real cost of raising children and I believe that the current system is taking money away from the hands of those who actually feed and care for their children and is instead putting money into the hands of those who have limited contact (if any) and who are already better off financially.

I think the Government needs to get tough on negative websites that promote the avoidance of paying child support and get them removed.

Many of these repulsive sights encourage fathers to avoid paying child support by gaining full custody or 50/50 shared parental care of children regardless of the child's best interest and motivated only by bitterness and hatred towards their exes and greed.

I have great concerns for the well being, safety and best interests of children that some fathers (mostly) may be seeking overnight/sleepovers, contact and 50/50 shared parental responsibility purely to avoid paying child support and to claim extra in benefits.

An example of a website encouraging fathers to not pay.

How Fathers Can Win Custody to Avoid Paying Child Support
<http://blogs.salon.com/0002874/2005/08/16.html>

Also there should be restrictions on Lawyers cashing in on Separation and Divorce especially through aggressive advertising as they instigate hostility and further enflame conflict between separated couples and are encouraging parents how to avoid paying child support.

I personally think there needs to be an advertising/publicity campaign to shame avoidant payers and show the real costs of raising children.

Also to dispell and highlight the myths that (mostly) men use to justify not paying child support eg.

- 1-Why should i pay for a child i never see?
- 2-Why should i pay when it all goes on the ex not on my kid?
- 3-Why should my partner pay his ex when he has a new family to support
- 4-She only has children to claim child support.

There needs to be better male/dad role models who do the right thing.

I think the mens rights lobby groups need to be held accountable for many adverse changes made to CSA through their sense of privilege and manufactured victimhood that has given many avoidant payers the entitlement and excuse to not be responsible for their children.

Along with many other payees, I believe our child support payments should come directly from the Government rather than the payer so that much needed child support is received and received on time. Make CSA be responsible for reclaiming money owed so it does not interfere with the payees daily costs of providing for children and will make the Government more likely to chase after owed child support.

Possibly introduce an informal mediation strategy (voluntarily) between payer and payees to discuss and/or resolve child support payment issues as many mothers face conflict when asking ex partners to contribute to unexpected child costs.

Child Support Agency is still inadequate in chasing those payers who minimize their payments, don't lodge tax returns and work for "cash in hand".

CSA has informed me that surveillance isn't worth the money and resources unless they are out to catch those in debt of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Have also been given the centrelink "dob in" line by CSA but was told best to avoid it.

These are a further sample of sights encouraging avoidance of child care and misinformation of facts. Just go to any mens/dads/fathers rights sights on the web and they'll be manipulating, victimising and misinforming fathers into not paying child support rather than encourage them to do the right thing by their kids.

<http://www.fathershelphelpline.com/>

http://www.ehow.com/how_4471764_avoid-paying-child-support.html

<http://www.stoppayingchildsupport.com/index.html>

<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20080925022852AA9qmXr>

<http://www.dadsrights.org/>

Sincerely,
Suzana Zuzek